



Advocating the views of convenience stores, supermarkets, independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors.

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PFMA covers industry trends, COVID impact during 2020 Fall Legislative Conference

Camp Hill (October 30, 2020)—During a year marked by unusual and challenging circumstances, the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association hosted its 2020 Fall Legislative Conference virtually with sessions hitting a range of hot topics in the food industry.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, speakers covered state and federal legislation impacting the industry, multiple angles of COVID's effects on businesses, disability inclusion, loss prevention, and cyber and data security. The sessions covered how the industry, state, and nation have responded to changes particularly in the last seven months, what to expect moving forward, and how to prepare for those expectations.

"This has been a year of incredible disruption, but our members continue to rise to the challenge and adapt. I'm grateful to our conference speakers for sharing their valuable insights and what the future might hold," said Alex Baloga, president and CEO of PFMA. "This conference is a valuable opportunity to meet with our industry, state, and federal partners to discuss pressing issues and collaborate moving forward."

Just one week out from the presidential election, PFMA was grateful to welcome PA House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff to kick off the conference on Tuesday, and PA House Democratic Whip Jordan A. Harris who joined conference attendees Wednesday morning. Both representatives discussed timely issues impacting the industry, including the state budget, liquor reform, COVID, and more.

Three representatives from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce covered federal updates, liability, and tax policy Wednesday afternoon.

James Emmett of James Emmett & Co. discussed the significance of disability inclusion, emphasizing that employees with disabilities are extremely loyal to their companies and more focused on safety compliance. Dawn Roller, director of loss prevention and POS at Brown's Super Stores, shared their recent response and safety recommendations in the midst of looting or rioting. Finally, members of EisnerAmper provided the latest methods to ensure cyber and data security in the business world.

PFMA appreciates the time and expertise of all conference speakers, and thanks association sponsors for making the conference possible.

Details on the PFMA spring annual conference will be shared in the coming weeks.

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About PFMA

The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, a statewide trade association, advocates the views of nearly 800 convenience stores, supermarkets, independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors. PFMA members operate more than 3,200 stores and employ more than 150,000 Pennsylvanians. For more information on PFMA, visit pfma.org.